

# LITURGY BYTES

## More Saints



At the end of July, the Church celebrated the feast day of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Saints Joachim and Anne are the parents of the Blessed Mother Mary and the grandparents of Jesus.

As we read in the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels of Mathew and Luke, a family history of Jesus is furnished tracing His ancestry. However, it is interesting to note that Jesus' mother's family is neglected. We know they existed, but we know very little factually about them. The heroism and holiness of these people is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Bible. We do see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, especially herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people. The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a very close-knit, loving family.

Joachim and Anne represent a quiet series of generations of people who performed their duties, practiced their faith, and established an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, even though they remain a bit obscure. Joachim and Anne are the patron saints of grandparents, and their feast day should remind grandparents today of their responsibility to establish for future generations the traditions of both their faith and their family.

The feast also has a message for the younger generations to be aware of older people's perspective, experience, and wisdom. Their feast is celebrated on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Sts. Joachim and Anne are perfect examples for us and powerful intercessors. Below is the prayer for the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, asking their intercession, that we may be drawn closer to God.

***O Lord, God of our Fathers, who bestowed on Saints Joachim and Anne this grace, that of them should be born the Mother of your incarnate Son, grant, through the prayers of both, that we may attain the salvation you have promised to your people. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.***

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week! *~Michele Hall*